Remarks

Claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 1-20 are submitted herein for review.

No new matter has been added.

In the Office Action, the Examiner has rejected claims 1, 12 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Mitchnick et al (U.S. Patent No. 5770216). Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertion and submits the following remarks in response.

Independent claim 1 is directed to an electric field control material including a polymer matrix in which is dispersed a so-called non-linear filler having non-linear electric resistance properties, wherein the non-linear filler includes at least 97% by weight of zinc oxide as a homogeneous powder, and less than 3% by weight of at least one metal oxide as traces.

This arrangement provides an electrical field control material which is less expensive and is produced less restrictively, while providing a significantly improved breakdown resistance.

The cited prior art, namely, Mitchnick describes a conductive polymer comprising a polymer and zinc oxide fine particles having a substantially rod shape. Mitchnick aims at providing a conductive polymer having anti-static properties from the fine particles of zinc oxide (col.2, lines 14-22).

In the Office Action the Examiner states that in col. 12, line 4, the Mitchnick reference

uses 99.8% pure ZnCl to prepare the zinc oxide sphere. Applicant respectfully submits that there is no basis for concluding that the Mitchnick reference teaches or suggests that the obtained filler includes ***at least 97% by weight of zinc oxide as homogeneous powder, and less than 3% by weight of at least one metal oxide as traces.***

In addition, the Mitchnick reference does not discuss the nature of the zinc oxide particles except that these particles are rod shaped to provide anti-static properties. As such, the Mitchnick reference does not disclose that the polymer matrix comprises ***a non linear filler having non linear electric resistance properties.*** The polymer matrix of the present application comprises a non linear filler which provides non linear properties so that the material of the present application is an electric field control material.

As such, the Mitchnick reference does not describe all of the elements of claim 1, namely there is no teaching or suggestion of a non linear filler including ***at least 97% by weight of zinc oxide as a homogeneous powder and less than 3% by weight of at least one metal oxide as traces.***

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1-20 are in condition for allowance, the earliest possible notice of which is earnestly solicited. If the Examiner feels that an interview would facilitate the prosecution of this Application she is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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